

NEVADA Connections

Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Volume 4 Number 5

June 1999

Ron Pugsley addresses adult educators in Reno



Phyllis Rich (center) presents Ron Pugsley with a bow tie as NAEA President Shela Fairbairn (1998/99) looks on.

About 70 adult educators attended the Nevada Adult Education Association's annual conference in Reno May 5th through May 8th. Ron Pugsley, Director, Division of Adult Education and Literacy, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (USDOE) gave an informative keynote address and hosted two question-and-answer sessions on the Workforce Investment Act. Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa and representatives for Congressman Jim Gibbons and Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan stopped by during the sessions. Other speakers and session facilitators included Frank A. Partlow, Jr., Director of the Northern Nevada Network; Phyllis Rich, Team Leader, Workforce Education Team (NV Dept. of Education); Dan Gouker, Training

Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and a host of other presenters representing various facets of adult education issues. The Association honored students Maria Avalas, Martha de Mendoza, and Lisa Lytle; tutor Ana Maria Rosel; and teachers Bruce Craig and Wendy Raynor for their outstanding work.

About 100 people gathered the next day for the Third Annual Literacy Awards Ceremony to recognize over 70 people, agencies, organizations, and businesses for their contributions to literacy improvement in Nevada during the past year. Ten students were also honored for the outstanding progress they've made toward the achievement of personal literacy goals.

Plans are already underway for next year's conference in Las Vegas. Officers for 1999/00 are: President Vicki Newell, President-elect (and 1999/00 Conference Chair) Martin Bauer, Secretary Amy Hyams, Treasurer Terri Kaulentis, Director-at-large (north) Barbara Brockhoff-Taylor, Director-at-large (south) Julee Henson, and Director-at-large (rural) Dixie Tienken

Annual dues are \$18 (individual), \$5 (student), and \$40 (organization, entitled to one voting member).

Contact Treasurer Terri Kaulentis, CCSN, 2409 Las Verdes, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702/651-4892; terri_kaulentis@ccsn.nevada.edu.

More kudos ...

From the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association to:

- ◆ CCSN's Bruce Craig and UNLV's Amy Hyams, who received the Professional Development and Memorial Scholarships, respectively.
- ◆ Vicki Newell, who received the Award of Excellence for Nevada.

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Community College
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Welcome—

Mary Katherine Moen, Nevada's new Adult Education Consultant, has worked in the field of adult education for over fifteen years in both Oregon and Nevada. Prior to serving as the Gender Equity Consultant for the Nevada Department of Education from 1997 to 1999, she developed and directed community college programs in job placement, cooperative work experience, and nontraditional careers for women. She has worked extensively in workforce education and with special populations including single parents, displaced homemakers, dislocated workers, English language learners, and students in accelerated trainings.

At left: Mary Katherine Moen is crowned "queen" by Miguel Quintero in a fun session at the NAEA convention.

And goodbye—

Cliff Ferry, Dean of Special Programs at Great Basin College, is retiring effective June 30 after serving over 30 years in the adult education field. Cliff led the Adult Education Program to its latest accolade as one of four Area IV finalists for the (U. S. Department of Education) Secretary's Award for Outstanding Adult Education and Literacy Programs. The winner will be announced soon.

We mourn the loss of Joyce Allison, instructor and ABE/ESL Coordinator at Great Basin College. Well known for her competence, sincerity and warmth, Joyce will be missed not just in Elko, but throughout the state. The family has requested that donations, which will be used to pay the GED fee for incarcerated students, be directed to: Prison Education Fund, Great Basin College Foundation, c/o Shirley Chantrill, 1500 College Parkway, Elko 89801.

California survey findings highlight employment skills and competencies

—Excerpted from CASAS Quarterly Report, Spring 1999

Data analysis is now complete for the California Adult Basic Skills Survey (CABSS) conducted by CASAS for the California Department of Education, Adult Education Office.

CABSS is a comprehensive basic skills study that asked leaders in three stakeholder groups—adult education, business and industry, and public service agencies—to rate 46 competency statements representing seven competency areas for their importance in acquiring and retaining entry-level employment. The tally of survey instruments shows that 10,243 were completed by stakeholders and returned to CASAS (a 20.3% response rate).

- The results show what skills and competencies respondents deemed are most significant in preparing adult learners for today's labor market. Here are a few highlights of findings:
- 43 of the 46 competencies were rated as "top" or "high priority" and marked as "very important" or "important" by at least 70 percent of respondents. This suggests that competencies used to develop CASAS assessment instruments accurately reflect the education and training needs of those who use the CASAS system.
- All groups gave Basic Communication competencies the highest mean ratings. Examples of this area include the ability to use appropriate language, the ability to use appropriate non-verbal behavior, and the ability to request clarification.

(continued on page 3)

Literate Nevada ... Literate Communities

—Vicki D. Newell, Project Director, 775/356-1007

Task force update . . .

On April 15th, the Literate Nevada Task Force was officially called by Governor Kenny C. Guinn, giving gubernatorial credence to its leadership in the Nevada Literate Communities Project. On that same date, Marta Hall, Education Consultant for the Nevada Department of Prisons, was elected Chairperson of the Literate Nevada Task Force. Marta's background in adult education will serve the Task Force well as it begins to assist communities in developing their literacy profiles.

Community update . . .

Truckee Meadows has completed its first two steps towards becoming a Literate Community—its letter of intent has been filed and its Oversight Committee established. Led by the Washoe County Library System, it has begun work on its literacy profile and has taken leadership in developing the literacy/education indicators for the Truckee Meadows Human Service Plan. A “brainstorm” session was held in April to establish priorities to be addressed in its literacy profile. Not among the top five, but of interest was the concern that there is a lack of male involvement in adult education and literacy issues in general.

A letter of intent to be the second community to begin the process toward certification was received from the Henderson District Public Libraries on April 23rd. A planning meeting to begin identifying potential Oversight Committee members will be held in late May.

What is an Oversight Committee?

A Literate Community Oversight Committee brings *all* of the literacy players in a community together to work in common to solve the community's literacy needs. This may involve assisting an existing program to expand its ability to reach more persons in need of literacy services, finding in-kind donations to strengthen the components of a Family Literacy Program, or other tasks. In reality, the Oversight Committee is responsible for the 3 C's – Coordination, Collaboration, and Communication between literacy providers and the community's needs. Recently, the 3 C's were expanded, with the 4th C being **Commitment** and the 5th C being **Culture**. Rolling up your shirtsleeves to increase the literacy proficiency levels of a community takes commitment in the form of dedication to helping others learn. Part of the learning process is becoming aware of and developing an appreciation of the cultural aspects of a community. It is their strong commitment to culture that has lead two of our state's libraries to take leadership in building Literate Communities.

California Survey (continued from page 2)

- Second and third highest mean ratings among all survey groups were given to Employment and Learning-to-learn competencies, respectively.
- The business and industry sector rated the following seven competency areas from most important to least important: Basic Communication, Employment, Learning-to-learn, Computation, Health, Community Resources, and Consumer Economics.

The 46 competencies included in this study are part of the CASAS Competency List of more than 300 competencies. The list is correlated to the Department of Labor's SCANS competencies (competencies identified by a DOL commission as those needed for success in today's global society) and is the basis of the CASAS assessment system. Results from the CABSS will enable California adult education practitioners to use results to shape curriculum and instruction well into the next century.

Rethinking Workforce and Employability Skills

Still more resources to assist ABE programs in keeping pace with change

—Marcel Fernando Schaerer, ABE Employability Skills Coordinator, 775/787-2000

Thanks to the help and input from ABE directors and team members throughout the state, we have added more than 60 employability skills-related books, videos, and CD-ROM discs to the three State Literacy Resources Centers (Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas). Topics include occupational skills, crucial traits employees must possess to succeed in the workplace, different aspects of workplace safety, and growing careers that will provide the greatest number of entry-level job openings through 2005. Topics also address training, teambuilding, organizational management, phonics, listening, learning, and literacy skills.

Once again, the intention of the following listing is to provide you with food for thought, so your programs can identify employability skills that are specific to the needs of your targeted population.

Speaking Up at Work (Oxford University Press)

Simulation, reading, writing, and speaking activities help ESL students develop the communication skills and confidence they need to succeed. The first section of each unit deals with cultural information and language, with the purpose of improving social interaction. The next section emphasizes oral communication and deals with language and culture for learning the job. Finally, each unit presents information to help workers understand policies and procedures.

Take This Job and Love It – School to Work Series (Shopware)

Employers name positive attitude, adaptability, dependability, loyalty, and interpersonal skills as the most important traits that new employees can bring into their companies. This video has topics of interest to adult education programs, including realities of the workplace, adapting to individual work environments, and workplace expectations.

Careers Without College (American Guidance Service - AGS)

This series details a dozen fast-growing careers that do not demand a four-year college degree. Rather, they require on-the-job training, training program certification, vocational college training, or two-year college degrees. The books are color-coded to reflect U.S. Department of Labor career clusters and job classifications. The careers included are emergency medical technician, paralegal, retail salesperson, and tractor-trailer truck driver.

Effective Teamwork (Cambridge Educational)

When some people hear the word teamwork, they think of games or team sports; yet teamwork is much more than that. In today's businesses, the teamwork concept represents organizational success. Ideas and decisions are generated within teams and not from the top down as in the past. With this how-to training program, you will learn how to make the team concept work, why teams are important to you and your organization, how to write a team constitution, how to develop ideas and make decisions that the team can stand behind, how to run a typical team meeting, and how to deal with conflict and team problems.

The New Oxford Picture Dictionary (NOPD) CD-ROM (Oxford University Press)

This is an interactive multimedia picture dictionary using sound, animation, and interactive exercises. This exciting multimedia tool offers fast, flexible access to over 2,400 words in spoken and written form; interactive exercises and activities that allow students to practice at their own pace; and reading texts and dialogues that put vocabulary into context.

For more information, see “**Stuff to Share**” lists at www.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/NSLA/LITERACY/lit.htm or call the State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC) at 1-800-445-WORD (9673).

Nevada Connections Feedback – June 1999

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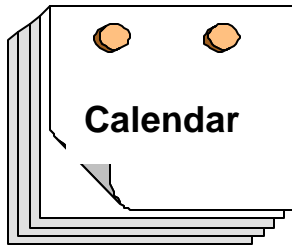
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Nevada Summer Institute: Elko, NV

June 9-11

Linda Zaczek 702/897-7684 LZLV@aol.com

CASAS Summer Institute

San Diego, CA

June 15-17

Jennifer Miller 800/255-1036, ext. 331; Dawn English, 800/255-1036, ext. 309

This professional development project is funded by a grant from the Nevada State Department of Education, Adult Education Act, P.L. 91-230 as amended. There is no discrimination or denial of participation on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

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